

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An isolated and purified biologically active Ring box protein comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1.

2-6. (Canceled)

<sup>2</sup> 7. (Previously presented) A recombinant Ring box protein comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1.

8-23. (Canceled)

<sup>3</sup> 24. (Previously presented) The Ring box protein of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is human.

<sup>4</sup> 25. (Previously presented) A Ring box protein according to Claim <sup>2</sup> 7, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

<sup>5</sup> 26. (Previously presented) A Ring box protein according to Claim <sup>2</sup> 7, prepared by the method of culturing <sup>isolated (EXAMINED)</sup> a cell containing an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 under conditions suitable for expression of the nucleic acid molecule.

<sup>6</sup> 27. (Previously presented) A protein complex comprising the Ring box protein of Claim 1 or Claim <sup>2</sup> 7.

<sup>7</sup> 28. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim <sup>6</sup> 27, further comprising one or more proteins selected from the group consisting of a cullin protein, a substrate recognition protein, and a linker protein.

~~28~~<sup>8</sup>. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim ~~28~~<sup>7</sup> wherein the complex is a ubiquitin ligase protein complex.

~~29~~<sup>9</sup>. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim ~~29~~<sup>8</sup> wherein the ubiquitin ligase protein complex is selected from the group consisting of SCF and VHL.

~~30~~<sup>10</sup>. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim ~~29~~<sup>8</sup> wherein the cullin protein is selected from the group consisting of Cdc53, Cullin 1, Cullin 2, Cullin 3, Cullin 4A, Cullin 4B, and Cullin 5.

~~31~~<sup>11</sup>. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim ~~29~~<sup>8</sup> wherein the substrate recognition protein is selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$ -TRCP, Cdc4, Grrl, VHL and Elongin C binding proteins.

~~32~~<sup>12</sup>. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim ~~29~~<sup>8</sup> wherein the linker protein is selected from the group consisting of Skp 1 and Elongin C.